

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date: September 10, 2006 / 12:00 p.m.**  
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## **UPDATE:**

The teen driver has been identified as 17 year-old Oscar Alexander Ward of Olympia.

### **Teenager Dies In Fatal Collision In Thurston County**

A one car collision claims the life of a 17 year-old North Thurston High School student. The collision occurred on Johnson Point Road NE at Puget Road North in rural Thurston County just north of Olympia.

The September 10<sup>th</sup> incident occurred when the State Patrol received a report of a one car collision at 6:55 a.m. at Johnson Point Road NE and Puget Road North. When troopers arrived they found a male driver deceased in a green 1997 Chevrolet Cavalier. It is unclear at what exact time the collision occurred. The driver was identified as a 17 year-old male and a student at North Thurston High School. Investigators believe that the vehicle was southbound on Johnson Point Road NE where the roadway has a slight curve to the right. The vehicle drifted over the centerline to the left and then off the roadway where it vaulted off an embankment and landed in a gravel pit and rolled. Based on the distance the vehicle traveled while airborne, investigators believe that the vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed.

Sadly, troopers do believe that speed and ALCOHOL were factors in this tragic and preventable collision. The 17 year-old was from Olympia and only had an Instructional Permit not a Valid Driver's License.

### **Next of Kin HAS Been Notified**

This tragedy is the fourth collision over the weekend in Pierce and Thurston Counties involving young drivers that were alcohol related.

- September 9<sup>th</sup>- 1:15 a.m. 21 year-old Michael Butler Killed in a one car collision at 6024 Steamboat Island Road NW. (Thurston County)
- September 9<sup>th</sup> -5:15 a.m. 18 year-old Samuel Johnson was driving northbound I-5 at 96<sup>th</sup> St. and drove off the road seriously injuring a 15 year-old girl and an 14 year-old girl. (Pierce County)
- September 9<sup>th</sup> – 11:50 p.m. 11841 Independence Rd 19 year-old Kyle Luddey drove off the road and seriously injured a 16 year-old girl who was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. (Thurston County)

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